

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-38 were rejected. However, Applicants disagree with this rejection and respectfully submit claims 1-38 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-8, 10-17, 19-23 and 26-38 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by the Johnson reference, US Patent No.: 5,829,520. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Johnson reference relates to a method and apparatus for testing exploratory wellbores, completion of wellbores and controlling production in wellbores through the use of a sensor device. (Column 5, lines 59-63). The system includes a production string 20 containing a plurality of sensor devices 26 mounted within openings contained in the production string 20 wall. (Column 6, lines 14-29). The sensor device 26 includes a housing 42 having on its outer diameter surface 48 an external thread 49 for mounting the housing 42 to the casing string 20 with a matching thread 49. It is noted that alternative means can be used for "sealingly mounting the housing 42 to a casing or production string." (Column 6, lines 31-41).

In an alternate embodiment, a method is described as further comprising the step of "shutting-in" a target zone by an isolating member (not shown). The only example of an isolating member described in the disclosure is a through-tubing bridge plug that is "run through the work-string 209" and positioned above the reservoir to be isolated. (Column 15, lines 30-37). In other words, the Johnson isolation member is utilized to block flow along the wellbore by independently introducing it through a work-string 209 positioned in the wellbore. This disclosure, relied on by the Examiner in rejecting the subject claims, does not teach various elements of the claims at issue.

For example, the Examiner stated with respect to independent claim 1 that the Johnson reference teaches "a logging system, a downhole unit, Fig. 2, and a deployment system." However, as described in the preceding paragraphs, the Johnson reference describes a sensor device 26 that can be used in a production string or a casing string by sealingly mounting the sensor housing 42 to the casing or production string. In a separate embodiment, cited by the

Examiner (see Column 15, lines 30-37), the only description of any type of wellbore fluid barrier is described as a tubing bridge plug that is independently run through the work-string rather than with the sensor device. Nowhere does the Johnson reference disclose or suggest a system having a "downhole unit operable to house the logging tool and to selectively secure a retrievable fluid barrier within a wellbore casing" as recited in independent claim 1. Similarly, the Johnson reference does not disclose or suggest a "downhole tool" comprising "a first portion operable to house a well logging tool" and a "second portion operable to selectively secure a retrievable fluid barrier to a wellbore casing" as recited in independent claim 14. Again, the Johnson reference also fails to disclose or suggest the method as recited in independent method claim 26. For example, the Johnson reference does not describe deploying a tool string having a retrievable fluid barrier, a logging tool and a downhole tool; "actuating the downhole tool to secure the fluid barrier within the casing" below a first group of perforations; disengaging the downhole tool from the fluid barrier; and operating the logging tool. Claims 2-8, 10-13, 15-17, 19-23 and 27-38 variously depend from independent claims 1, 14 and 26 and are patentable for the reasons provided above with respect to those independent claims, as well as for the unique subject matter recited in each dependent claim.

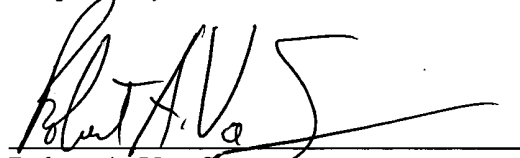
Claims 9, 18 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Johnson reference. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 ultimately depends from independent claim 1, and claims 18, 24-25 ultimately depend from independent claim 14. Accordingly, those claims are patentable over the cited reference based on the reasons provided above with respect to independent claims 1 and 14. Claims 9, 18 and 24-25 also are patentable for the unique subject matter recited in each of these dependent claims. Furthermore, Applicants object to the Examiner's unsupported assertion that elements of the rejected claims would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. If this rejection is maintained, we respectfully request the Examiner provide evidence to support these assertions.

Applicants hereby petition to extend the period for response by one month, from September 23, 2003 to October 23, 2003. The enclosed payment includes the fee associated with this extension in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the pending claims are believed patentable over the cited references. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', is written over a horizontal line.

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